

# Ellipsis

---

Volume 42

Article 6

---

2015

## Sprawl City Coroner

Christian Coleman

*University of New Orleans*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis>

---

### Recommended Citation

Coleman, Christian (2015) "Sprawl City Coroner," *Ellipsis*: Vol. 42 , Article 6.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/ellipsis/vol42/iss1/6>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of English and Foreign Languages at ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ellipsis by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uno.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uno.edu).

# **Sprawl City Coroner**

Christian Coleman

*Andrea Saunders Gereighty / Academy of American Poets Award 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*

On the mangled cherry trees bending in his front yard,  
bloated and swollen, the maggots eat  
like kings. The bodies swing from low branches  
to be plucked by the Doctor. He paints their shadows  
on the ground with black tar so the bodies know  
where they have been. He keeps sticks

sharpened on both ends.

What they were the city has taken  
as burnt offerings. The corpses of the unclaimed, stacked  
like firewood on pyres. The Doctor makes  
smoke signals of the dead. Gods  
come when he calls